



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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BLUE SPRINGS RECEIVES NEW SIREN

Lincoln, Neb., May 13--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded in mid April, \$12,100 in grant funds to the City of Blue Springs. The USDA grant funds, in conjunction with \$6,400 furnished by the Gage County Emergency Management Board will provide the financing needed for a new emergency warning system for the community of 383 rural residents.

Janice Stopak, rural development specialist for Nebraska USDA Rural Development stated, "The city's existing warning system is no longer operable and parts are not available leaving repairs as not an option, thus the city made plans for the purchase of a new system."

The siren will be compatible with the county's system so that the Gage County Emergency Management can trigger the siren to sound from remote locations and Beatrice. The siren system will allow the village to provide an advanced warning system for adverse weather conditions and emergencies.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture serving the needs of rural communities unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere, to help them finance needed facilities. In some cases, USDA Rural Development guarantees repayment of loans made by private lenders.

The grant funds were provided through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant Program. For additional information contact USDA Rural Development Specialist Janice Stopak at 6030 South 58th Street Suite B, Lincoln, NE 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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